

Filed for intro on 05/24/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 485
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Robert M. Mehlhorn on his exemplary service as Scott County Agricultural Extension Agent on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, With more than 30,000 farmers in our state, agriculture is a very significant part of the Tennessee economy; and

WHEREAS, Agricultural Extension Agents are a very important part of their communities, providing valuable information and assistance to those farmers; and

WHEREAS, Robert M. Mehlhorn, who has served admirably as the long-time Scott County Agricultural Extension Agent, has done an excellent job; and

WHEREAS, The eldest child of Clarence and Ruby Redmon Mehlhorn, Robert Maurice Mehlhorn was born on September 2, 1939 in a log cabin in Wartburg, Tennessee. He had two brothers, Phil and Jerry; and

WHEREAS, His father was a successful dairy farmer, who taught him the value of hard work, and his mother was an elementary school teacher, who, from an early age, taught Robert the importance of getting a good education; and

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WHEREAS, A highly regarded student, he attended Joyner Elementary School, graduated from Central High School in 1958, and worked for about a year for the Tennessee Farmers Co-op in its Lavergne Feed Store; and

WHEREAS, Deciding there was a better way to make a living, Mr. Mehlhorn went to college, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from Tennessee Tech University in 1963 and his Master of Science in Adult Education Degree from North Carolina State University in 1977; and

WHEREAS, After graduation from Tennessee Tech, he accepted a United States Army commission and spent two years as an Army officer in Fort Hood, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, Mr. Mehlhorn went to work as a fertilizer manufacturing trainee for Agrico Chemical Company in Nashville and later as a General Foreman in Greensboro, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, After the business was sold, his distinguished career with the Extension Service started; in August 1969, he became an Assistant Agent in 4-H, Agronomy and Resource Development in Orange County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Of his many North Carolina achievements, the crowning ones are the establishment of a multi-county Junior Dairy show which is still in existence and conducting the informative grower education program that resulted in six million dollars of income in flue-cured tobacco to the county; and

WHEREAS, Missing the lovely mountains of Morgan and Scott Counties, Mr. Mehlhorn decided to return to his beloved Tennessee; he was transferred to Scott County as Extension Leader in March 1978; and

WHEREAS, With the help of great people to assist him and with a lot of hard work, Robert Mehlhorn has played a major role in improving the lives of the area's farmers; and

WHEREAS, His lengthy list of accomplishments includes starting the Spring and Fall Cattle Health and Cattle Handling demonstrations which later evolved into the Annual Cow

College and Fall Hay-Day; starting the Annual Scott County Health Fair that has been going strong for twenty years; changing the old Technical Action Panel into the Rural Area Development Committee; starting the annual Scott County Horse College, and conducting the first Annual Forestry College for Scott and McCreary Counties; and

WHEREAS, In the finest traditions of the Volunteer State, Mr. Mehlhorn has also contributed his time and leadership as a valued member of a committee that financed and constructed what has become a very popular Gazebo at Huntsville Manor Nursing Home, and he organized and participated in several ground-breaking and ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Big South Fork National River and recreation Area; he was a vital force in the founding of the Scott County Emergency Food Pantry in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mehlhorn was also a valuable member of a committee that was responsible for Scott and McCreary Counties receiving the prestigious Enterprise Community designation and worked with the Huffines family to set up the H. H. Huffines Memorial Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, He has also rendered valuable assistance to Habitat for the Humanity's, "Hammering in the Hills," Jimmy Carter Blitz Building of ten homes in Scott and Morgan Counties as a member of the Steering Committee and, later, the Board of Directors for the Scott County Emergency Communications District (911); and as an active member of the Kiwanis and member of a Kiwanis committee that has selected and honored the "Farmer of the Year" each year for 23 years; and

WHEREAS, He has received numerous awards and honors, including a State Award from the State-County Agents Association for his feature story about a Scott County farmer in 1984, Honorary Chapter Farmer Degrees from both Future Farmers of America chapters in Scott County, selection as Outstanding County Extension Agent in Forestry by the Tennessee Forestry Association in 1991, and receiving the State Award for Meritorious Service Support in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mehlhorn has been fortunate to have a very supportive family; his loving wife is the former Violet Landrum, his high school sweetheart, to whom he has been married since 1958, and they have three successful children Rosemary Jeffers, who is the Scott County school nurse, Michael Mehlhorn, who is a pipefitter in Knoxville and Joey Mehlhorn, who is a professor at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, This fine couple's grandchildren include Jordan and Railey Jeffers, Lindsey and Wesley Mehlhorn and Robert and Elizabeth Mehlhorn; and

WHEREAS, It was with considerable regret that we learned that Mr. Mehlhorn will soon take a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to express our deep appreciation to Robert M. Mehlhorn for his meritorious service to Tennessee and to Scott County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Robert M. Mehlhorn on the occasion of his retirement as the Scott County Agricultural Extension Agent and wish him well in his future endeavors. Persons of Mr. Mehlhorn's stature, dedication, and diligence, and who possess such a long list of accomplishments, are very rare and he will be sorely missed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.